



### Life Course

Positive Outcome

### Brief Name

High School Graduation Rate

### Indicator

Percent of youth who graduate high school within 4 years.

### Description

This metric is the adjusted cohort graduation rate for the number of youth who graduate in 4 years with a regular high school diploma.

WI	US	Best	Worst
88.6%*	82.3%	90.5%	61.4%
		IA	DC

### Year

2013/2014

### Numerator

Number of students who received regular high school graduation diploma

### Denominator

High school youth who began in the cohort year

\*Indicates statistically significant difference from the US value at  $p < 0.05$ .

### Importance

Youth who graduate from high school on time are more likely to go on to post-secondary education, and to have higher earnings over their lifetime contributing more economic benefits to society through increased tax payments and decreased utilization of public services (food or housing assistance). Graduated youth also typically see better overall health outcomes, making healthier choices and abstaining from risky behaviors such as drug use and premarital sex (Alliant for Excellent Education, 2011).

### Limitations

This metric includes only youth who received a regular high school diploma. Acquisition of a GED or other High School equivalence is not included.

Some states differ in their reporting of graduation rates, particularly for children with disabilities. Full details of how data are obtained can be found at [nces.ed.gov](http://nces.ed.gov).

### Source

Common Core of Data, accessed via the National Center for Education Statistics, online at [http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR\\_RE\\_and\\_characteristics\\_2013-14.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR_RE_and_characteristics_2013-14.asp). Alliance for Excellent Education. The high cost of high school dropouts: What the nation pays for inadequate high schools. Washington, DC: 2011, retrieved from [www.all4ed.org/files/HighCost.pdf](http://www.all4ed.org/files/HighCost.pdf). Alliance for Excellent Education. Healthier and wealthier: Decreasing health care costs by increasing educational attainment (Issue Brief). Washington, DC: 2006, retrieved from <http://all4ed.org/reports-factsheets/healthier-and-wealthier-decreasing-health-care-costs-by-increasing-educational-attainment/>.